

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the subject application. Applicant presents this supplemental amendment following the Amendment filed on July 14, 2004 to expedite the prosecution of this application.

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 7, 9 and 21, and cancels claims 8 and 10 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 7, 9, 11, 12 and 18-23 are currently pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Claim 7 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 7 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...wherein said re-melting is performed by passing said laser beam through a mask having a low transparency region and a high transparency region." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 and claims 9, 11 and 12, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

Claims 18 and 19 have been already allowed. Thus, claims 20-23, which depend from independent claim 19, are also allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims, claims 7, 9, 11, 12 and 18-23, are in condition for immediate allowance.

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the

filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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